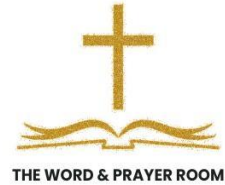


Lay Down Your Crown



Day 2: Hush - Lay Down Your Crown!

Not every battle needs your voice. Some need your silence.

Key Scripture: Proverbs 17:27–28 (NIV)

“The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and whoever has understanding is even-tempered. Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues.”

The Crown - What It Represents in This Story

A crown doesn't just symbolise power - it symbolises presence. When you wear it, you're seen. You command the room. You lead with confidence and authority. But sometimes, the greatest test of maturity is knowing when to remove it - when to let humility speak louder than position. There are moments when God whispers, “Hush.” Not because you're wrong - but because there's more at stake than being right. This was one of those moments.

✦ My Personal Story – “Hush, Lay Down Your Crown!”

I received a meeting request out of the blue from one of my existing clients - a Chief People Officer – (CPO). Her message was brief: she wanted to discuss a system topic. Naturally, I assumed she meant technical systems. But when the meeting came, it turned out to be something completely different. She explained that the “system” referred to a collaboration of seven organisations working together on a 3–5 year plan to tackle discrimination across their region.

I was both shocked and surprised - shocked because 18 months earlier, I had sensed something like this would happen, and surprised because I was now watching it unfold. Each organisation had its own lead for a specific improvement area. The commissioner came from one organisation I already partnered with, but the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) was from another. The CPO told me they would “lend me out” to deliver the work across the system and they would fund my time. Then came the challenge: “We need a draft strategy in three weeks.” Three weeks. For seven organisations. Impossible - but God.

I was introduced to the SRO, someone I'd met before. She had previously wanted to work with me but couldn't, due to finances. Now, she was leading this piece of work.

During our consultation I asked, “What will this group of organisations be called?” She gave me the name. I wrote it down carefully. I’d only worked with three of the seven organisations before, so I prayed earnestly for God’s favour - and He granted it. Soon I was partnered with an excellent project manager who helped engage all seven organisations. We held one intense three-hour session and another for review. Then all the heavy lifting fell to me - turning their scattered input into a coherent system-wide strategy. It required discernment, diplomacy, and prayer. But God gave me wisdom, and three weeks later the draft was complete.

When I presented it to the SRO, I was excited - joyfully expectant. This was the moment! But instead of joy, her expression changed. She looked startled and said sharply, “You can’t be the Chair - I am! You’re an external contractor. You can’t hold that position.” It wasn’t what she said - it was how she said it. My justice value ignited. Then she questioned the very name of the group - the name she herself had given me. “This isn’t the name! This isn’t what this forum is!”

I could feel my flesh rise as fast as my sense of injustice. Still, I said calmly: “I’m using the information you gave me.” She grew flustered. “Well, it’s difficult - it’s complex.” I replied quietly, “If you give me the right information, I’m happy to change it.” That was a crown moment. I had every right to defend myself, to call out her inconsistency, but something in me said, not now. When she realised I wasn’t biting, her tone softened. We ended the meeting politely - but inside, I was on fire.

I started planning how I’d give her feedback about her behaviour. She needs to know I won’t tolerate this. I began to map out what I was going to say and how. And then - suddenly - something exploded in my spirit. The worship song “O Be Lifted” began to play in my head - not softly, but like a full orchestra. The words rang out like thunder: **“O be lifted above all other gods; we lay our crowns and worship You.”**

I hadn’t been listening to any worship music that day. I wasn’t even in a prayerful mindset - I was deeply offended. How could this be? The Holy Spirit had intervened. It was so loud, so alive, that I left the kitchen where my husband was working and went upstairs. I couldn’t resist it. How could I worship when I’d just been offended? And yet - I couldn’t stop. I lifted my hands, and I worshipped.

Then came His voice, clear as day: **“Hush. Lay down your crown.”** That lyric wasn’t coincidence - it was confirmation. God was reminding me that no offence, no injustice, no misunderstanding should ever sit higher than His throne. If I had followed through on my plan to “give feedback,” I would have sabotaged His strategy. This woman was not only on the panel from an Event I later went on to host

- she was also a potential future client. God didn't need my defence. He needed my obedience. So, I hushed. And I laid down my crown.



So, What Am I Learning from This?

I'm learning that laying down your crown isn't always about humility in public - sometimes it's about silence in private. It's about choosing not to justify yourself when you know you're right. It's about letting God fight the battle you want to narrate. God was saying, "If you speak, you'll win the argument but lose the assignment." That day, I learnt that silence isn't weakness - it's worship. When I laid down my crown, I lifted up His name.



Why We Struggle to Lay It Down

Because silence feels like surrender - and surrender feels like defeat or weakness. We crave resolution and recognition. But being still is not about doing nothing. It's about trusting that God is doing something even when you can't see it.

To be still means to stop fighting for control and start resting in His sovereignty. It means resisting the urge to react so that you can remain in divine rhythm. Stillness is not passivity - it's posture. It's a decision to quiet the noise of pride, fear, and self-defence long enough for God's peace to take the lead.

Scripture reminds us in Exodus 14:14 (NIV), "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." In that verse, God was speaking to Israel as they panicked at the Red Sea, surrounded by the impossible - enemies behind them and deep waters ahead. "Be still" didn't mean stand idle; it meant stand in faith. Hold your ground. Don't let panic push you into self-reliance. When we hold our peace, we invite His power. When we choose quietness over correction, God steps in as our defender..



Scripture Focus: Proverbs 17 : 27-28 (NIV)

"The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and whoever has understanding is even-tempered. Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues."

- **"The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint..."** Wisdom doesn't need volume. It speaks with purpose, not impulse. Holding your tongue isn't weakness - it's strength wrapped in patience.

- **“Whoever has understanding is even-tempered...”** Understanding recognises that not every reaction deserves expression. It stays steady when emotion storms.
- **“Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent...”** Sometimes the wisest thing you can do is say nothing. Silence doesn’t prove fear - it preserves dignity.
- **“And discerning if they hold their tongues.”** Discernment lives in the pause. In that still space, God can guide your words, or tell you not to speak at all.

That’s what it means to lay down your crown: choosing wisdom over reaction, silence over self-justification, restraint over retaliation.



Declarations

- I will not let offence become my idol.
- I choose stillness over self-defence when God says, **“Hush.”**
- My restraint is not weakness - it is worship.
- I lay down my crown of justification and lift up the name of Jesus above my emotions.



Prayer

Lord, thank You for interrupting my offence with worship. When my justice trigger rises, remind me that You are the righteous Judge. Teach me what it truly means to be still - not to stand idle, but to stand in faith, trusting that You are working even when I can’t see it. Let my silence be worship, not suppression. When I’m tempted to defend myself, help me remember that You fight for me when I stay still. Today, I lay down my crown – as in - my right to be right, and I choose peace over pride. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Key Takeaway

When God says “Hush,” it’s not rejection - it’s redirection. Your stillness is not silence - it’s strategy. Your calm isn’t denial - it’s divine trust. When you lay down your crown, you make space for God’s hand to move. This song captures the essence of Lay Down Your Crown – enjoy; [O Be Lifted](#) .